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POLAND: Statement by Solidarity

Moderates within Solidarity apparently have prevailed in deliberations aimed at formulating a response to the regime's use of force against cadet firefighters.

The union Presidium issued a statement yesterday that only indirectly mentioned this issue. The statement, however, criticized other actions by the regime, including its decision to proceed unilaterally on the reform of enterprises and its threat to pass antistrike legislation in the parliament, and it threatened a general strike if such a law is implemented.

The union leadership held additional, heated discussions, but Solidarity leader Walesa indicated that only a full meeting of the national committee--reportedly scheduled for next week--could commit the union to action.

A spokesman for the Warsaw chapter of Solidarity told that the union rank and file were not "profoundly seized" by the cadet strike and could not be expected to respond enthusiastically to a call for a nationwide protest. He added, however, that the union would soon have to address the issue of whether it should continue to avoid being provoked by government actions or whether it should begin to actively oppose the government's efforts to enact policies that go against union interests.

There is no information, however, to indicate that Polish military units have been placed on alert.

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